

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01313 071123Z

21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SCCT-02 SAB-01 NIC-01

SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /159 W
----- 067020

P R 071035Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8294

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1313

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJECT: KHARTOUM TERRORISTS; NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS TO AP CORRESPONDENT

REF: KHARTOUM 1296 (NOTAL)

1. AP CORRESPONDENT DAVID MICHELMORE (BASED CAIRO) TOLD PAO FOLLOWING INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI JUNE 6 THAT NIMEIRI WAS "ADAMANT IN HIS INTENTION TO PROSECUTE THE BSO DEFENDANTS TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF SUDANESE LAW". ACCORDING MICHELMORE, NIMEIRI SAID "WE OW IT TO THE FAMILIES OF THE DEAD MEN AND TO SUDAN'S SYSTEM OF JUSTICE TO CONVICT AND SENTENCE THESE MEN" WHOM NIMEIRI CHARACTERIZED AS "FOOLS". NIMEIRI TOLD MICHELMORE THAT WHEN HE SAW ARAFAT AFTER THE SLAYINGS (PRESUMABLY AT ALGIERS SUMMIT LAST SEPTEMBER) HE HAD TOLD ARAFAT THAT, IF BSO TERRORISTS HAD BEEN "MY SOLDIERS I (NIMEIRI) WOULD HAVE SHOT THEM DOWN IN THE STREETS".

2. MICHELMORE, HAVING READ FIERY SPEECH CASTIGATING SLAYINGS WHICH NIMEIRI DELIVERED SHORTLY AFTER THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01313 071123Z

EVENT, SAID PRESIDENT HAD RETREATED "NOT ONE INCH" FROM

HIS FEELING THAT THE MEN SHOULD BE TRIED AND CONVICTED. MICHELMORE SAID HE FELT THAT NIMEIRI WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH LESS THAN "SOMETHING LIKE TWENTY YEARS AND LET THEM GO AFTER FOUR OR FIVE".

3. MICHELMORE WAS SCHEDULED FILE STORY ALONG FOREGOING LINES AFTERNOON JUNE 6 FROM OFFICES SUDAN NEWS AGENCY. HOWEVER, HE TOLD PAO LATE THAT EVENING, AND SHORTLY BEFORE HIS FOUR AM JUNE 7 DEPARTURE FOR CAIRO, THAT "NIMEIRI HAD APPARENTLY HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT COMMENTING ON CASE WHILE IT WAS UNDDER STUDY" AND HAD ASKED TO SEE HIM, PRESUMABLY TO KILL STORY. SINCE MICHELMORE RETURNED CAIRO WITHOUT FURTHER CONTACT WITH EMBASSY, WE UNAWARE WHAT NIMEIRI MAY HAVE TOLD HIM OR WHETHER HE IN FACT INTENDS FILE STORY FROM CAIRO.

4. COMMENT. NIMEIRI'S FORTHRIGHT STATEMENTS TO MICHELMORE ARE CONSISTENT WITH HIS PERSONAL ANGER AGAINST TERRORISTS AT TIME MURDERS COMMITTED AND HOPEFULLY REFLECT CONTINUING FEELING ON HIS PART THAT ACTION ALSO IN PART DIRECTED AGAINST HIM BY LIBYANS (MURDERS OCCURRED DURING CELEBRATIONS MARKING ANNIVERSARY END CIVIL WAR). MOREOVER, NIMEIRI APPARENTLY DID NOT MAKE NEGATIVE POINTS PREVIOUSLY STRESSED BY ACTING FONMIN MUSA THAT AMERICANS MUST UNDERSTAND PRESSURES TO WHICH GOS SUBJECT, AND THAT TERRORISTS ALREADY HAVE BEEN IN JAIL 15 MONTHS. AT SAME TIME, NIMEIRI MADE NO SPECIFIC STATEMENT AS TO WHAT ACTION MIGHT TAKE PLACE AFTER TRIAL AND SENTENCING COMPLETED (I.E. IN AREA OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY), ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTOOD MICHELMORE PLANNED ASK QUESTION ALONG THESE LINES. MICHELMORE ALSO HAD AGREED MAKE SOME COMMENT TO NIMEIRI REFLECTING CONTINUING DEEP CONCERN WITH WHICH THIS MATTER BEING VIEWED BY AMERICAN MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. SINCE AP STORY AS ABOVE OUTLINED MIGHT ONLY SERVE EMBARRASS NIMEIRI AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, WE BELIEVE EVIDENT SUDANESE MOVE KILL ITEM WAS CONSTRUCTIVE STEP. WOULD APPRECIATE CAIRO'S DEBRIEFING MICHELMORE SOONEST TO ASCERTAIN: (A) WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HE PLANNING DO WITH STORY FROM CAIRO; (B) ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS INTEREST NIMEIRI MAY HAVE MADE LATE NIGHT JUNE 6-7; AND (C) WHETHER, DURING REGULAR INTERVIEW JUNE 6 OR LATER, NIMEIRI GAVE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KHARTO 01313 071123Z

ANY CLEAR INDICATION AS TO ACTION HE LIKELY TAKE ON EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

ISSUE. HIS COMMENTS NATURALLY WILL BE FULLY PROTECTED, AS INFO IS FOR USG OFFICIALS ONLY.
BREWER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, LAW, TRIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO01313
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740145-0068
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740666/aaaacejk.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM 1296 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHARTOUM TERRORISTS; NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS TO AP CORRESPONDENT
TAGS: PINS, SU, BSO, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR), (MICHELMORE, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005